Our Forests have been exploited for war supplies and it has become highly necessary to undertake works of conservation and extensive plantation. A complete temporary re-organisation of this Department to cope with the post-war development scheme was therefore sanctioned in the course of the year. These measures of far-reaching importance in the economic development of the State resources have meant a further expenditure of Rs. 2·84 lakhs over the budget estimate of Rs. 19·73 lakhs.

The Public Health Department had to combat against a terrible out-break of small-pox this year and extensive measures had to be undertaken to arrest its alarming spread and reduce its havoc. Similarly malaria was gradually spreading its tentacles and more anti-malarial measures had to be undertaken in various parts of the State. Thus the budget estimate under Public Health had to be exceeded by Rs. 1·86 lakhs.

The other important variations have been explained in the memorandum and it might be seen that the increases are not the out come of any ineffective control over expenditure, but are the result of the several uncontrollable forces working in the post-war period. It is obvious from what I have explained that the increased expenditure has been incurred mainly.—

to ensure more food and reduce poverty and want,
to combat ill-health by timely preventive measures
to spread literacy by making primary education free in accordance with some of the post-war aims animating the endeavours of the Government.

Schemes of Capital Outlay

The supply of adequate and cheap electric power is a *sine-quo-non* for industrial progress and the Poringalkuthu electric scheme which has been on hand for decades together has now been taken up. A special expert has been appointed to execute the work and it is hoped that rapid progress will be made towards the satisfactory completion of the works.

The scheme of extending the power supplied by the Pallivasal Installation is making headway.

The Anamalai road with its great economic possibilities is making good progress and we expect to spend on its construction Rs. 21·99 lakhs by the end of this year.

A new road work costing not less than Rs. 12 lakhs has been taken up in the very heart of Ernakulam through her most unhealthy swamps and water logs and its completion is expected to improve the Town considerably.

The Fruit and Vegetable cultication in Nelliampathies has been placed in the hands of a Planting expert and the scheme is expected to ensure good returns besides helping our needs in the matter of vegetables, etc.

Based on the findings of the Manu Subedar Committee which examined the possibilities of industrial development in the State an Industrial Development Fund with a nucleus of Rs. 25 lakhs has been constituted this year. This is intended to encourage essential industries that may be started in the State.

Budget Estimates of 1122

I now turn to our programme for the coming year. The budget before you continues to be inflationary as an aftermath of the war and it forecasts for a revenue of Rs. 322·57 lakhs and programmes for an expenditure of Rs. 354·38 lakhs leaving us in a deficit of Rs. 31·81 lakhs. The imperative needs of the post-war situation have left us in a deficit budget and to cover up this deficit we propose to move this House with proposals for additional taxation.

Receipts.—As compared with the revised estimate of Rs. 324·54 lakhs the budget estimate (Rs. 322·57 lakhs) shows a fall of Rs. 1·97 lakhs. The excess Profits Tax has been abolished; the income from tolls disappears with the enactment of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act and the duty on betel nuts, etc., has been reduced. The other items of Excise Revenue, however, continue to show the inflated income.

The budget for next year is thus mainly an estimate of falling revenues consequent on the cessation of war. It we omit the appropriation of Rs. 25 lakhs from the Revenue Reserve Fund the actual anticipated revenue would only be Rs. 297·57 lakhs thus showing a fall of nearly Rs. 27 lakhs from the revised estimate of the current year. The main items showing decreases are

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"Matches, Betel nuts, etc.", "Forests and Tramway", "Public Works", "Railway" and "Income-tax." On account of more shipping and less refunds we expect a revenue of Rs. 30·48 lakhs under "Customs" against the revised estimate of Rs. 22·26 lakhs.

The House rose for lunch at 1-30 P.M. and reassembled at 2-30 P.M. with the Hon'ble Diwan President in the Chair

Disbursements

Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: *Sailent features.*—Before going into details, I shall endeavour to explain briefly the most sailent features of our programme for the next year so that the House may know the basic principles on which the Budget has been framed. After all, the Budget is not a lifeless bewildering array of facts and figures "scattered with fearless profusion" to confuse and confound, but it is a living document reflecting the progressive ideals set up by a Government and it stands or falls on the standard of its utility to raise the moral and material needs of the people. Everywhere people are conjuring up visions of a happier world that is to arise out of the chaos and destruction of the war. The surging urge to build up a new world has expressed itself in the form of timely blue prints for planned development for the future prosperity of all denizens of every country. We too in this tiny corner of India are faced by the same problems which are by no means easy of solution, but in the budget before you the Government have taken up the challenge of the times and have tried their best to solve the questions to the extent possible and to prepare ourselves for the tasks of tomorrow. Call it "planning for peace" or "planning for reconstruction" whatever we call it, its aim everywhere is to promote the material welfare of the people and to raise their standard of living. As a writer has aptly put it, the budget before you is really a declaration of War—War against *poverty ill-health* and *illiteracy* and the fight would entail sacrifice; it would mean sweat and toil; but the ultimate reward is a brighter and happier "Cochin" and I am sure that all would consider the sacrifice which may be demanded of us in the course of this sitting as worthy of the cause.

Against proverty.—To feed the hungry we have to ensure an un-ending stream of cheap nutritious food by producing more, by increasing the yield from land, by larger out-put of agricultural produce and of industrial goods.

In the comming year we have budgetted for the continuance of the supply of manure at largely subsidised rates and our successful experience of the current year encourage us in this measure. A large provision is made for "Grow More Vegetables" campaign. Larger areas of arable land are being made available for cultivation. Large irrigation schemes (Rs. 8·50 lakhs) are to be executed with all possible speed and an extra provision of Rs. 6 lakhs has been made to ensure more and better facilities for small irrigation works and rural development in Panchayat areas. The Nelliampathy cultivation scheme is extended. Very large provisions are made with a view to develop and expand the fishing industry in the State.

The steps taken already for healthy cattle breeding and dairy farm are continued with vigour. To give adequate work and shelter to the disabled and vagrant poor three Beggar Homes have been opened. Buildings to properly house them are proposed next year and adequate funds (Rs. 1·90 lakhs) have been provided on their behalf.

Against ill-health.—Living as the majority of us do, half-clad or worse in squalid houses of mud walls and mud floor poorly thatched and under unhealthy conditions, we have more than need be of our share of disease and ill-health. The toll of death even from preventible diseases is alarming in certain years. The budget provides all possible funds to alleviate these conditions.

To fight the scourge of small-pox and to eradicate it completely, a large body of vaccinators is proposed to be got trained to carry on the compaign of compulsory vaccination. The rural midwifery service is strengthened and extended; larger provision is made to fight malaria sapping the life-blood of our people in many parts of the State and a special expert is proposed to be appointed. Larger provision is made for child welfare centres.

The disease of tuberculosis is spreading in the State and there are no adequate facilities in the State to help the patients. The clinic opened at Trichur is only a miniature. A good T.B. Hospital with sanatorium fully equipped and staffed on up-to-date lines is therefore propooed to be opened at Mulakunnathukavu on an extensive area and it is hopped to be an accomploished fact by the close of 1122. Another T. B. clinic is to be opened at Ernakulam or Mattancheri also.

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